

Lake County Commissioners' TAX SALE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Each spring, Lake County, Indiana holds its annual Commissioners' tax sale, selling properties in Lake County for which owners have not paid their county property taxes for at least two years. This is a common practice, as counties and municipalities across the state hold similar auctions of tax delinquent property. These tax delinquent properties were first included in the Treasurer's sale last fall and were not sold by auction. In this year's Commissioners' sale, 15,000 properties in the County are up for auction, approximately 12,000 of which are located in Gary. The Commissioners' tax sale is scheduled to occur on **March 14-16, 2017.**

The vast majority of properties eligible for Commissioners' sale are not purchased. Over a six year study* period, 92% of properties offered at auction did not sell and were certified for the following tax sale. The Commissioners' tax sale is not run by the city of Gary, but it is important for Gary residents to understand Lake County's process so they are not confused about whether their properties are affected by this sale.

*Conducted by the Center for Community Progress

How do I find out if my property is affected?

Properties whose owners have not paid county property taxes for at least two years are eligible to be auctioned. Owners of tax delinquent property received multiple notices over the last two years, informing them that their tax payment is overdue. They also received notice that their property is included in the Commissioners' sale.

I'm concerned my property might be on this list. How can I confirm?

A full list of names and property addresses for properties included in the sale were published by the county in the *Hammond Times* and *Northwest Indiana Post-Tribune* on three dates. A full list of those properties, as well as a copy of the ad published in the newspapers, **is available online here:**
www.onyxelectronics.com/auctions/lake/

Concerned citizens who believe or know they are overdue on their payments and have further questions can contact the Lake County Auditor.

There are multiple ways to contact the Lake County Auditor.

By Phone: 219-755-3155

In Person: 2293 N. Main Street
Crown Point, Indiana 46307
Building "A" 2nd Floor

Via the Auditor's website:

<https://www.lakecountyin.org/portal/media-type/html/user/anon/page/feedback?oid=43>



My property is on the list. How do I keep it from being auctioned?

We encourage you to contact the Lake County Auditor to discuss your case and specific questions. Residents who want to pay their overdue taxes and maintain ownership of their properties, keeping them off the sale, can do so by **paying their back taxes in full to the Auditor by March 10.**

My property is eligible to be auctioned, but I can't afford to pay the taxes. What can I do?

You need to contact the Lake County Auditor to discuss your case and specific questions. There are multiple ways to contact the Lake County Auditor.

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If my property is auctioned, can I get it back?

Lake County residents who want to keep their property off the sale **must pay their back taxes in full to the Auditor by March 10** in order to do so. Otherwise, their property will be auctioned. Residents have until **July 14th** to reclaim their property but will have to pay additional fees.

What role does the city of Gary play in the Commissioners' tax sale?

The City of Gary plays no formal role in running the Lake County Commissioners' tax sale. However, cities in Lake County have the ability to buy tax delinquent properties within their boundaries.

